

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Protective Health Services directly affects everyone in Oklahoma by ensuring the quality and safety of a broad range of consumer and health care services, through:

- Inspecting restaurants, grocery stores, food trucks and other public food sources to promote safe food handling practices and prevent spread of disease
- Inspecting and educating hotels, motels, swimming pools and spas
- Certifying hospitals, nursing facilities, surgical centers, and hospice and home health agencies which serve Medicare and Medicaid patients
- Investigating complaints in nursing facilities, assisted living centers, residential care homes, facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and adult day care centers
- Reviewing hospital, surgical center and nursing facility construction projects to ensure compliance with design guidelines and safety codes
- Enforcing rabies prevention requirements when a dog, cat or ferret bites a person
- Preventing deaths and injuries caused by improper car restraints for children, intimate partner violence and sexual assault, older adult falls, sports-related concussions, unintentional poisonings, prescription drug overdoses, and other violent deaths
- Inspecting city and county jails

Community Family and Health Services provides services in 68 counties and serves as the safety net provider to our most vulnerable citizens particularly in rural areas

- Early Intervention (EI Program) provides home visitation program for children with special needs or delays teaching parents to provide care to their children in the home
- Every baby born in Oklahoma is required to have a blood test in the first week of life. The blood test helps to find babies with certain hidden disorders. Babies with these disorders often appear healthy at birth. This makes it difficult for doctors to know if a baby has one of the hidden disorders without a blood test. Failure to treat a baby who has one of these disorders within the first month of life can lead to cognitive or intellectual disabilities, severe illness or death. OSDH does all the immediate follow-up for those babies identified with one of these hidden disorders.
- Oklahoma continues to have high lead rates in children leading to disability – early intervention is critical to prevent permanent impairment and developmental delays. Provide blood lead screening and follow-up for children with elevated blood lead levels
- Many rural areas have limited access to vaccines – prevent disease through childhood immunizations
- Test and treat persons with sexually transmitted diseases and follow-up of contacts to prevent the further spread.
- Only source of providing directly observed medication therapy for Oklahomans with active Tuberculosis (TB) and provides preventive care for those with inactive TB. Provides skin tests to those at risk.
- Nurse home visitation program to help parents learn how to parent and prevent child abuse and neglect, increases breastfeeding rates, immunization rates.

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- Women's Infants and Children's programs provides nutrition education, nutrition supplement and works with women who breastfeed. Work with infants with low weight gain and overweight children.

Office of the State Epidemiologist encompasses programs that detect and track key infectious diseases to prevent or control their transmission and respond to disease outbreaks or other public health emergencies.

- The Public Health Laboratory provides specialized testing necessary to detect emerging pathogens (Ebola, Zika, etc.), infectious diseases (rabies, TB) and foodborne illness as well as newborn genetic or metabolic disorders.
- The Acute Disease Service tracks and investigates more than 60 reportable diseases. Over 20,000 case reports received through the electronic disease reporting system are processed for disease surveillance and control.
- Tuberculosis (TB) control physicians and nurses provide medical diagnosis, treatment, and case management of persons with active or latent tuberculosis. These staff direct the follow up and TB testing of contacts to active TB cases through county health departments to prevent the spread of TB in the state.
- The HIV/STD (sexually transmitted disease) Service works to identify individuals with STDs and deploys case workers to identify sexual partners for testing and treatment to prevent the further spread of STDs. Oklahoma is currently experiencing a large outbreak of syphilis.
- Oklahomans living with HIV or AIDS receive medication, case management, dental care, and health insurance assistance through the Ryan White federal program that is administered by the HIV/STD program through contractors and community-based organizations.
- Distribution of publicly purchased vaccine (Vaccines for Children [VFC], 317, and state-purchased) is coordinated through the Immunization Service to over 840 medical providers, including county health departments. Overall, 74% of Oklahoma children are VFC eligible.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Service coordinates planning and training activities with multiple partners, including hospitals, EMS, law enforcement, emergency managers, and community volunteers to maintain and enhance the state's emergency preparedness system capable of responding to a range of emergencies such as tornadoes, power outages, disease outbreaks, and chemical spills.

Public Health Laboratory provides vital laboratory testing that protects the public against the spread of infectious diseases and ensures newborns can thrive through the early detection of genetic disorders.

- 52,000 babies are screened for 54 conditions within days of birth to allow quick identification of genetic conditions and early medical intervention
- Only Oklahoma source for some tests such as rabies or drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis

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- Front-line response against emerging infectious diseases often becoming the only laboratory in the state to quickly develop testing methods, e.g., Zika virus, Ebola virus, variant influenza, and others
- Performs DNA fingerprinting of enteric organisms to contribute to the national database to help identify the source of multi-state foodborne outbreaks
- Identifies strains of influenza to monitor for novel viruses that could lead to a flu pandemic if not quickly identified and controlled
- Only Laboratory Response Network member lab in the state which is crucial in response to bio- or chemical terrorism by conducting rapid testing of select agents like anthrax, smallpox, or ricin in a bio-safety level III laboratory.

Vital Records is the states only agency providing birth and death certificates but also collects, processes and disseminates vital statistics for Oklahoma

- Issues 52,000 birth certificates and 38,000 death certificates
- Serves as the source of critical statistics on the health of Oklahomans
- Issues over 300,000 records
- Maintains 8 million historical records on births and deaths